

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 SS-15 CPR-02 A-01 MED-03 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /057 W

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R 031224Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8962

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4902

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, BR

SUBJ: ADMISSION TO WALTER REED OF BRAZILIAN GENERAL'S
SON

1. GENERAL OSCAR LUIZ DA SILVA, COMMANDER OF THE III ARMY (BRAZIL'S LARGEST TROOP CONCENTRATION), ENJOYS A SPLENDID PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION AND WAS EVEN MENTIONED AS A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. CURRENT SPECULATION POINTS TO SUCH POSSIBLE FUTRE ROLES AS MINISTER OF THE ARMY, CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, OR CHIEF OF THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF. HE HAS MORE THAN TWO YEARS OF GUARANTEED ACTIVE DUTY TENURE. HIS IMPRESSIVE CREDENTIALS HAVE BEEN ENHANCED BY A HEAVY DOSE OF BRAZILIAN SENTIMENTALITY FLOWING FROM COMPASSION OVER HIS OWN RECENT INJURY RESULTING FROM A FALL FROM A HORSE, AND THE ACCIDENT SUFFERED BY HIS ONLY SON, WHOSE RIGHT HAND WAS BLOWN OFF BY A GRENADE EXPLOSION DURING A TRAINING EXERCISE.

2. IT IS THE COUNTRY TEAMS'S AND JUDGMENT THAT THE PROPOSED ADMISSION OF LT. OSCAR LUIZ DA SILVA JUNIOR TO WALTER REED OFFERS A VEHICLE FOR THE ACCRUAL OF EXTRAORDINARY BENEFITS FOR THE UNITED STATES. PRESIDENT MEDICI AND ARMY MINISTER GEISEL ARE PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN THE YOUNG OFFICERS CASE. THE PRESIDENT MADE AVAILABLE HIS PERSONAL AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT THE INJURED OFFICER FROM HIS REMOTE UNIT TO PORTO ALEGRE, AND ARMY MINISTER GEISEL IS EVEN SEEKING MEANS OF STRETCHING EXISTING LEGISLATION TO PERMIT THE OFFICER TO REMAIN ON ACTIVE DUTY. ALL OF THE ELDER OSCAR LUIZ' FOUR-STAR COLLEAGUES ARE
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FOLLOWING THE CASE WITH FEELINGS OF GENUINE SOLIDARITY FOR THE

OSCAR LUIZ FAMILY.

3. SINCE GEN. OSCAR LUIS IS NOT AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE VETERAN, HE HAS NOT HAD ANY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, EVEN THOUGH HE IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF LONG STANDING OF GEN. VERNON A. WALTERS AND THE CURRENT DEFENSE ATTACHE. IT IS FELT THAT THE HOSPITALIZATION OF THE LIEUTENANT AT WALTER REED WOULD EARN THE EVER-LASTING GRATITUDE OF HIS FATHER (MOREOVER, THE GESTURE ON OUR PART WOULD CONFIRM FOR MANY INFLUENTIAL BRAZILIANS THEIR BELIEF THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN BE COUNTED UPON IN SITUATIONS REQUIRING HUMAN SOLIDARITY).

4. LT. OSCAR LUIZ DA SILVA JUNIOR IS BEING ASSIGNED TO THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY MISSION IN WASHINGTON WHICH WILL ASSUME FULL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS HOSPITALIZATION. THE BRAZILIAN DEFENSE ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON IS BEING INSTRUCTED IN THIS REGARD.
CLEVELAND

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NNN

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